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| ***Province*** | ***Législature*** | ***Session*** | ***Type de discours*** | ***Date du discours*** | ***Locuteur*** | ***Fonction du locuteur*** | ***Parti politique*** |
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**Nova Scotia: Education’s speech, Third session of the Fifty fourth legislature, 1987**

 HON. THOMAS MCINNIS: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Health was having as much

 difficulty completing that statement as I have had completing my speech. This is my third

 attempt at completing this and I really didn't get into any substance on my last attempt.

 I want to take the opportunity to speak on some matters that are taking place in my

 constituency and perhaps plead for some assistance. Of course, I want to take the oppor

 tunity to talk about my department and some of the things that are going on there.

 Back in 1978, Mr. Speaker, after getting elected, I took the opportunity to sit down

 and plan out some form of strategy as to how I wanted the Eastern Shore to develop over

 the period of time that I was there. We all, I guess, have visions as to how we would like to

 see things take place, and of course, in ,the heart of many rural parts of Nova Scotia one

 always seeks to increase the number of jobs. Back then on the Eastern Shore, and particularly on the more eastern end of the constituency, we had considerable, a high pocket of

unemployment, particularly in the winter season. One of the things that really went to the

root of the Eastern Shore, and I talked about employment, but there are other matters,

was the fact that there was really no serious recognition by governments, many govern

ments in the past. When I say governments I do not just mean the political wing, but indeed,

the bureaucratic wing. There was not an acknowledgement that indeed some industrial

growth could take place on the Eastern Shore.

 Of course, to have industrial growth one must have infrastructure. Along the Eastern

 Shore we have some very fine harbours, we have some excellent fishing ports, but, of

 course, access to them was difficult and indeed there were few if any wharfs along the

 constituency. So back in 1978 one of the things that we wanted to do because we did not

 have a full time lobby group, a group that would bring to the attention of governments,

 of all levels, just exactly what we desired and indeed that we did exist. So back in 1979, I believe 1979 to 1980, I piloted a Private Member's Bill through this assembly bringing

 about the establishment of the Eastern Shore Development Commission.

 That development commission is comprised of many private citizens and businessmen

 along the Eastern Shore and has a full time Executive Director, Mr. Bob Stevens, who

 enough cannot be said about. One of the things that we did was to get an incubator mall,

 and back then incubator malls you had to give great explanation, Mr. Speaker, as to what

they were. No one really understood what they were. But I only mention it, not to dwell on it too much, that it is perhaps one of the most successful incubator malls in Nova Scotia. This incubator mall now, there have been four businesses that have so-called incubated or have grown to the point that they have moved out into the industrial park and are now operating wholly unto themselves and without subsidy of any kind. They are employing something like 60 individuals.

 Apart from all of that, the Eastern Shore Development Commission has taken inventory of the existing businesses and have helped the local businessmen along the Eastern Shore to expand and, of course, thus creating jobs. One of the greatest challenges and one of the most difficult areas has been the Chezzetcook Industrial Park. I am not going to dwell on the building, suffice it to say that a building that was previously occupied by a company that was not successful, now that building is becoming an industrial mall. Wouldn't you know it, Mr. Speaker, on the Eastern Shore we will be producing ladies high fashions, commencing sometime in April, Diana Lee Fashions, which will create. . . (Interruption) I would love to have you and I will see that you get an invite. That will employ some 25 people.

 In the far end of the constituency one of the other things that I think is so very important because it is something that I learned very early on, that you must work closely with the bureaucracy. I have heard in this House on several occasions where the federal government has not been responding and perhaps one of the reasons is that we depend too much on the federal politician and do not take the time to work through the system. Proof of that is that through the Eastern Shore Development Commission - and this is really not getting much fanfare at all and I guess perhaps we're not looking for it, but it is a great thing for the Eastern Shore and particularly District 11 down in Sheet Harbour - we have landed a $10 million investment fund under the Community Futures Program. That program will allow businesses to expand and will allow new businesses coming in to gain loans at 1 per cent above prime.

 Now in an area like Sheet Harbour I cannot tell you just exactly how important that is. For reasons that I am about to embark on and some of the things that are taking place, businesses undoubtedly will want to locate down there. Part of that $10 million investment fund will allow the Eastern Shore Development Commission to expend some $200,000 on an administrative staff to explore new opportunities for businesses to develop.

 Another welcome announcement from the federal government, Mr. Speaker, has been what is called the LEARN Program, the Local Employment and Resources Network Program, which provides us with $200,000. We have had some difficulties with manpower in the past and we have had difficulty just finding out the human resource inventory that is there and the jobs that may well be available or the expertise that is available. This here will enable us to hire a coordinator for the Eastern Shore and establish a computer data bank, enabling us to, if someone wants, for example, a spray painter, we can find out where he is, we can find out what jobs exist on the Eastern Shore. All individuals' names will be put into this computer and we will know the exact number of people who are unemployed, the last opportunity they had for employment and so on. It will be a tremendous benefit for us.

 As I said, we have had some trouble in Sheet Harbour with commuting back and forth - not just Sheet Harbour, the Eastern Shore - to Manpower in Dartmouth and really, it is very tough to even find the opportunity to get in and have an interview.

 So those are two of the areas that I say to you that, yes, the political wing approved

 but they came through the bureaucratic system. One of the things that I want to mention

 and the Minister of Transportation is not here but I certainly will see that he gets this

 message, the roads continue along the Eastern Shore to be extremely important. I am

 delighted that now the Department of the Environment, federally and provincially, and the Department of Fisheries have approved the extension of Highway No.1 07, across the

Chezzetcook Marsh. That will be a tremendous boost to the constituency of the Eastern

Shore. (Interruption)

 Oh, he is up there. Yes, there he is. I was going to save repaving until the end, until you

 arrived back, but now that you're listening, repaving is something that perhaps is not

 lobbied for that extensively by any MLA, but I want to assure the Minister of Transpor

 tation and the members of this House that today in Nova Scotia, repaving is extremely

important. We must maintain the existing road network that we have paved. The Eastern

Shore, particularly along Highway No.' 7 and Highway No.1 07, that was built and paved,

part of it, back in 1978, it is broken up. It has never really had the solid pavement on it. It's

a stabilized base and it must be repaved as is the case with Highway No.7. It's extremely

important, it's the only highway we have going down the Eastern Shore, and it's extremely rough, not only rough, all roads are rough this time of the year, but it's broken up terribly

and I plead with the Minister of Transportation to take a serious look at that.

 While I'm on roads, one of the roads that got dubbed with an unfortunate name in

 1986 was the so-called road to nowhere. You will recall that we are upgrading a road from Sheet Harbour to New Glasgow, and the road now, because some people believe that that

 expenditure should not be made, it was dubbed the road to nowhere. It's unfortunate.

 People were slighted. Members of the Liberal Party agreed with it, and in fact they may have

 even named it. People have mentioned it to me, and not being a political in any sense of the

 word, I tried to cover it over.

 But it's typical, I must tell you; of the treatment that District 11 received. This is the

 type of treatment they received and the people down there do indeed feel that in the past

 they've been forgotten and this road here will provide District 11, Sheet Harbour, that far

 end of the constituency, with an all weather road year around. The important thing about

 that is that currently under construction in Sheet Harbour is an $8 million common user

 dock in one of the finest harbours in all of Nova Scotia. Now that road will link us with Highway No. 104, and any man or any individual or business that's going to or has com

menced business in Sheet Harbour certainly will want year around access to an all weather

highway. So, I think it's extremely important. It was unfortunate, as I said, that it was

dubbed the road to nowhere. The people down there were somewhat slighted and I'll

probably have to remind them over the next period of time as to who called the road that

name.

 All is not well. We do have some things happening down in the far end and in this end of the constituency as well. We have been unsuccessful in convincing the federal government

that we should be recognized under the tier system. It is one of the most blatant cases of

discrimination I have ever seen. A business that locates down on the Eastern Shore is not

eligible for any incentive under DRIE. None, not one dollar.

 In Sheet Harbour, for example, not eligible, not eligible in Chezzetcook or Musquo

 doboit Harbour or Ecum Secum, but indeed if you go, and I'm not asking for the removal of this, because I think it's good, but in Windsor, in Bridgewater where probably the unem

 ployment rate is about 5 per cent and where they have Michelin Tire and so on, if a com

 pany wants to locate there, they're eligible for the tier system and the incentives. Yet, on

the Eastern Shore, we are not eligible for one plug nickel for incentives and I think it is one of the most blatant cases of discrimination. As much as we tried and literally hollered about it, we have been unable to come in under that umbrella of the tier system.

 Another area that is woefully inadequately dealt with is the dredging of harbours and the construction of fishing wharves or the repairs of wharves. We have not had a meaningful dredging or wharf repair program in the last 25 years. Mr. Speaker, you are listening?

 Yes, indeed, 25 years, that's how long it has been. I will tell you how discouraging it is, with fishermen who have invested money in their vessels and the time and effort that they put into the job, they come into Jeddore Harbour in the heat of August and they have to wait six hours for the tide to come up, that's how bad it is. That's

 the way it is, Mr. Speaker, in several harbours along the Eastern Shore. (Interruptions) Bring

 some order, please.

 Mr. Speaker, that is a very serious matter, the dredging and the lack of the tier system. If we can accomplish those two areas, I can assure you we will really think very highly of the federal government. We do now, I say that on the Eastern Shore. We commend the MP, Mr. Elmer MacKay, for his efforts with the common user dock

 at Sheet Harbour and the so-called road to nowhere, and, of course, the Community Futures

 Program.

 In the constituency, we also have formed a cooperative under the auspices of the forest management funding from the federal and provincial government. Just a word or two about that because along the Eastern Shore, spasmodically, there are private woodlot holders who really have not been collected together, they are small in nature. Under the program on forest management, we have now been able to bring them together in a cooperative. We now have under coastal woodland properties, some 16,000 acres of land under forest management.

 I want to take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to commend the Minister of Lands and Forests for the very excellent job that he has done, not only in directly implementing a program and bringing home some excellent agreements but, indeed, by bringing to the attention of the public of Nova Scotia the importance of our forest and how we can bring about silviculture programs and management programs.

 He has done so, he has worked with my department, bringing it into the classroom.

 In fact, we are now looking at the possibility of piloting a program, a forest management

 program in Nova Scotia whereby students literally go out into the woods and work on it. I think it is excellent and I know he will be embarrassed and I don't mean to embarrass

 him but he does deserve recognition in the excellent job that he has done in that portfolio.

 (Applause)

Well, I want to see you after for something.

 Coastal Woodlands Limited now employs something like 25 or 30 people. Private woodlot owners never imagined in their wildest dreams that they would have an opportunity to have a plan of development for their lands,. a road put into the land, silviculture taking place on their land. I can tell you that some of the older gentlemen along the Eastern Shore, how delighted they are to finally see that they have access to land that they never, ever thought they would be able to develop. That is an excellent program.

 I want to say this, it is more of a caution to the Leader of the Opposition, that is so typical of our government and how we have been handling rural Nova Scotia. I really did fear in the last Liberal Convention here in Halifax where you had some of the elite from the Party, I think of Mr. Cummings and the former MLA here, Mr. Nicholson, if I may, where they wanted, Mr. Speaker, to see development take place in metro, they wanted another Toronto. Forget about the development of rural Nova Scotia and Cape Breton.

 My caution is, I worry that the seed has been planted in the Liberal Party because they are still there and I would hate to see the day that places like my constituency and other rural parts of Nova Scotia would not have the opportunity to develop. I think it is extremely important. The last thing we want here is a sprawling metropolis like Toronto. I fear that that seed has been planted in the Liberal Party, well of course, we probably will not have to worry about that for a long time because they will not have the reins of power.

 It is a serious matter because really, Mr. Speaker, we have gone throughout the Province of Nova Scotia and developed industrial parks, incubator malls, lands and forests and what have you, and the people of rural Nova Scotia know that. While I am talking about rural Nova Scotia, just current in the news I believe yesterday, did I hear one Charles Keating, an old friend of mine, that was pleading to keep out these Ontario firms so that the cable television operations would be left alone here in Nova Scotia to do as they may.

 Well, Mr. Keating should go down to Jeddore or Lake Charlotte or Clam Harbour or Ecum Secum, or indeed any rural community along my riding. Those people feel that they should have the opportunity to have cable TV. If Mr. Keating and the cable operators of Nova Scotia are not prepared to set up operations under the CanCom system, then indeed let the companies come in from Ontario because the people do want to watch cable TV. It is one of their only enjoyments, particularly during the winter months. When I heard that on the news last night I couldn't believe it and immediately sat down and wrote a letter to the CRTC.

 It has been dangerous lately to talk about the offshore. People say, no, don't mention that, really, it has been a failure. Well, indeed, it has not been a failure. I had asked for some statistics from the Nova Scotia Resource Board and was delighted to have received them. There is no question, any fair minded individual will understand and will know that someday offshore gas and offshore oil will come off Nova Scotia.

 Having said that, it is of course natural and expected that it would had to have gone through the development or exploratory stage and that is what has taken place here in Nova Scotia. During a period of time, 1981 through 1984 or 1985, where you had, if not a depression, certainly a recession throughout Canada and indeed almost the western hemisphere. Here in Nova Scotia the economy continued to grow and that was predicated or based on the fact that the offshore development took place.

 The thing that I am pleased about is that all but one well that is off there, and I believe there are 22, we have ownership in all but one. We have some equity in that development.

During that period of time, Mr. Speaker, I had some statistics here. Total expenditures by oil companies on offshore during the 1982-86 period was $2.17 billion. Of this figure

approximately $500 million went to Nova Scotia businesses during that period of five

years. Employment, approximately 4,000 person years over the five year period. Wages,

between $120 million and $160 million over the five year period. Average salary between $30,000 and $40,000.

 So it is incorrect to say that the offshore has been a failure. The exploratory stage is

 there, it is set to tap the wells and bring them in when the offshore oil price improves. So,

 there has been no failure, it has been an investment in our future and an investment in our future at a time when the economy generally speaking in Canada was not great.

 Now, I want to touch on if I may, and I have been cautioned not to announce anything and I certainly will not, but I do want to touch on the coal-fired generating stations. I think in the immediate short term that the opportunity for this government to create jobs in the mines of Cape Breton, in the construction industry, and indeed after the construction is complete, direct jobs in the plants, that this government should do all in its power to bring about coal generating stations. I understand that for every 300 megawatt plant that is constructed, 500 jobs are created in the mine. That is something. I think that we have to

 give as much energy as we possibly can in the exploration of foreign markets for our

 electricity and indeed bringing home the construction of as many of these plants as we

 possibly can. It would be a tremendous revenue producer. Many people have not looked

 into it, but it would be a tremendous revenue producer in the sales. I will not get into the dollar detail but I was quite surprised. The sale of 300 megawatts to the New England

States, what it possibly could return for the Nova Scotia Power Corporation and for the

people subsequently of Nova Scotia.

 Gold mines, who was it said, Mr. Speaker, there's gold in them there hills, I forget who it was, some movie great.

Randolph Scott you said?

 You said it as well. But you know it is amazing along the Eastern Shore the development that is taking place. If you have the opportunity, Mr. Speaker and others, avail yourself of it if you can because its almost like little towns at Beaver Dam now, at Tangier, and at Caribou. The number of employees could very well reach as high as 600. The Minister of Lands and Forests and I met with the president and the Minister of Vocational and Technical Training last week, and they expect anywhere from 600 to 1,000 individuals by the end of this year, I think it was, that will be employed in gold mining down the Eastern Shore.

 Now I think that is extremely exciting, and if you called tonight, and of course I would encourage you to do this- at any time, but if you called Sheet Harbour looking for a motel room tonight you would not get it. That is the type of spinoff that is taking place as a result of this gold mine development. So it is an exciting time down there with respect to gold mines. It is funny it reminded me of the Klondike days, because a friend of mine, Jim David, was telling me he arrived back at the airport and there was a chap there from the Yukon, and he was hiring a taxi for no less than Beaver Dam. Imagine, Beaver Dam, getting a cab, he had no idea where he was going, he may have thought he was going 10 miles away,

but indeed he was going 110. There are not many miners on the Eastern Shore, so there is considerable training, and in the meantime they have to bring some miners in.

 Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have? There are so many exciting things going on in the constituency, but I do not want to neglect education.

 : Oh well that is good, that is fine, I will just touch on a few more if I may. We have officially requested Parks Canada, the minister in charge is Environment Minister, the Honourable Tom McMillan, to conduct a study on the Canadian significance of the Liscomb Game Sanctuary as a national park. I made this proposal some two years ago to the federal government. They were fairly excited about it. They have a number of proposed parks on their agenda, so it will take some nudging to get them to look seriously at the Liscomb Game Sanctuary. That sanctuary, Mr. Speaker, has a tremendous number of lakes and streams. It is one of the most scenic parts of the province of Nova Scotia. There are no houses involved whatsoever. There will be no moving of individuals. There would really be very little disruption with respect to private ownership of land because the Crown owns a great deal of the land and a great deal of the land is under lease to Scott Paper. It would make a tremendous number of jobs, and it would assist greatly in tourism along the Eastern Shore. Indeed, Pictou County, Colchester County, Hants County, Guysborough County, and of course, Halifax County, will all benefit of a result of a national park in that particular area.

 Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, I will start getting into the Department of Education. I just wanted to touch on the program of review that the provincial government has just undergone. I guess it would be fair to expect that a government that has been in power, now we're on our third term, would lose energy and not have the drive that governments that first get elected have.

 You're not listening. I said one would expect and that's what you would expect. But you know I have never seen this government with more energy and more drive and confidence in the future of this province. We have gone through, Mr. Speaker, one of the most extensive reviews of programs that are now in place by using some key people in all departments of the provincial Public Service.

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 Not only have we reviewed programs, we sought out new programs, new directions, and as a result, this government has charted a new direction for the people of Nova Scotia. I wanted to mention that because, as I said, one would expect that a government that's in for its third time would be kind of tired, and I've got to tell you, Mr. Speaker, I've never seen such energy in the caucus that we have, and, indeed, in the Premier. (Applause)

 Now, if I may talk a bit about education. Mr. Speaker, great attention for several reasons has been given to education over the past year. Some of the attention really was based on the UNESCO report that defined literacy in a way that I certainly didn't agree with, but I'll touch on that in a moment. It basically stated, I guess, that anyone with less than a Grade 9 education was illiterate, and, therefore, neatly swept up some 25 per cent of Nova Scotians, saying they were illiterate. Their definition said that those individuals, anyone that is unable to read or write as well, but the key point was that anyone with less than Grade 9.

 That, of course, gave considerable attention and the members opposite jumped on the bandwagon.

 You know, Mr. Speaker, here in Nova Scotia there are many individuals that I know, in fact I have two brothers that had to get out and go to work when they were 15 years of age and they sure didn't have Grade 9 education. I can tell you neither one of them are illiterate in my mind and are perfectly capable of reading and writing and so on because they learned themselves, or taught themselves how to do that.

 So the fallacy in that report unfortunately generated considerable interest and so on and maybe that was good, because there are some people out there, no question about that, that are illiterate. So maybe the sort of scare drove many groups into action. So, from that point of view, it was good. But literacy, Mr. Speaker, in my mind is, there are many people that are able to read, to write and to calculate and they can read the front page and they can understand words and so on and know what the word is, identify it. But do they really comprehend and understand, and are they really able to critically analyze difficult calculations and so on? That's what we have to ensure that students are able to do.

 In Nova Scotia, apparently 50 per cent of those that are illiterate are over 40. We are unable to force people into the classroom. I think we have to do more in the way of making it known that the opportunities exist through adult education, continuing education, through various libraries around the Province of Nova Scotia. Working with school boards, some of the school boards have literally checked the list of students in past years and found out who did or didn't pass, and those that didn't pass they've sent letters out saying, please come back to school.

 Pardon me? No, many did. They've obviously sought assistance, but they did. The Halifax City Board here have several students that have taken them up on the invitation and have returned to school, many of them older people. That is the type of attention I think we have to provide to our students. But what kind of progress are we making with education in the province? I guess I never liked to use statistics too much, unless they are used in defence. These statistics, I think, are very interesting when one looks at the retention rate of students throughout high school. For example, in two decades, 20 years ago, 60 per cent of Grade 7 students graduated from high school. Now that is 20 years ago, that is 1967, it doesn't seem that long ago but 20 years ago. Today the figure is 86 per cent. In other words, there is a tremendous climb in those who are going through the high school period.

 In this province as well, to assist in education we have constructed, as a government, some of the finest schools that exist in Canada and we continue to do so. We have teachers today, many of them have one and certainly more than one degree. So the teachers are, I think, by and large well qualified. I think we have a richer, deeper curriculum than we have had in years gone by. I think the mechanism is in place to properly educate our children.

 One of the areas I think that we have to ensure that we are doing a proper job is in the realm of programs. A year ago in February, I, as minister, put together a committee comprised of many interested parties in education, the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, the School Boards Association, members from the public, the Home and School Association and so on,

, to review the existing programs being taught in high school and to come back with a report,

which I hope to receive literally within days, telling us if we are teaching the proper courses, where we should be changing, should the core program be changed, so on and so forth.

 I am anxiously awaiting that because I am convinced we have met the challenge of yesterday and I think it is important that we prepare our youth to meet the challenge of the future.

 Teacher effectiveness, you can have the greatest programs in the world and the greatest schools and classrooms and all the accouterments that go with the system, but if the teacher is not doing a proper job, if the teacher is not teaching effectively, then it is all for naught. So we have beefed that up on meeting with the boards on many occasions. I commend the Nova Scotia Teachers Union and the various boards around the province for their assistance in this regard because we now have one of the best teacher monitoring systems, I think, well, it can certainly compare with any in the country. I think that was extremely important.

 I think we have the physical facilities, 'we have well qualified teachers. If we ensure that the programs are preparing the children properly and if the teachers are doing a good job, then I think that retention rate will go higher and the comprehension rate and the ability to calculate, read and write of our students of Nova Scotia is simply bound to improve.

 Speaking of teachers, so often, from time to time people look at them in a dim light and they are not really held that high by many. That is what reaches my ears. I think it is a shame because I have had the opportunity to be in the classroom and watch teachers, principals and so on. They do work very hard and I think they should be recognized for it. In that regard I will be proposing to the Nova Scotia Teachers Union and the school boards that sometime in the next year that we have a teacher appreciation day to recognize the efforts of the teachers of Nova Scotia. I think they do a fine job and I think that they should be recognized for that.

 Computer education is, I read an interesting article. Who is the chap on CBC? David Suzuki, I think it is, yes. Awhile back he was cautioning educators and those responsible for funding the education system, not to give too much attention to computers. He likened it to an automobile. When you want to use it you will use it. When it comes the age when you have the right to drive it, you will get your license and you will drive it. He likens the computer, I don't know if I agree necessarily with him but it was interesting, to an automobile. It is there, it is a piece of machinery and let us not go wild over it. Students will come to understand it. They will grow up in that system and they will be capable of using it to the best of their ability and for the purposes that they so desire. It was an interesting article and I think we should pay heed. I don't think we should go wild over it. I think we have to, in the education system of Nova Scotia, ensure that computers are available and we certainly have done that. Last year we spent some $2 million on computers.

 Human rights, currently in our education system, Mr. Speaker, in several courses, we touch on human rights. Our department is working now with the Human Rights Commission and indeed the Canadian Human Rights Foundation with respect to piloting a course on human rights. That will be a course that they will spend a period of time on not just having it touched on here, there and everywhere, they will dwell on it. Perhaps they will take a day and talk about human rights and we are kind of excited about that because some of the things that are taking place, infringement on the basic human rights in this world, in some areas, that it is quite disgraceful.

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 Provincial examinations, if we could just touch on that for a moment because it did make the news and I want to allay fears that no one is determined that we are going to be coming back with provincial examinations in our high school system, but I think we should seriously look at it. We shouldn’t be afraid to talk about these things. Some of the educators that I have spoken with, the Teachers Union and others, say no, no, don't ever do that. Don't go back to provincial examinations. I am waiting for statistics that I have asked for in the department, but I bet you that at the demise of provincial exams, I think it was in 1966 or 1967, I bet the pass rate in Grade 12 went up considerably and so perhaps the tests were too hard. Perhaps it wasn't a fair test but I do believe that we had better take a look at the examination system and perhaps not provincial exams but perhaps a new means of testing. We are about that in the department now and working with school boards and the Nova Scotia Teachers Union.

 I am winding down, Mr. Speaker, I only have a couple of other areas that I want to touch on, but I do want to touch on the disease AIDS as it affects our education system and what we should or should not be doing with it. One of the things that I want to assure the House is that I certainly behave that, well, let me backtrack. At the moment we have a course, I think it is called Family Life, and in that course there is reference to several diseases that can be transmitted sexually. It is our intention at the very minimum to include the disease AIDS in that list. That would be the very minimum that this government and my department will be doing because I think it is awfully important.

 At the moment children, students, particularly in junior high school, are asking questions about AIDS. So I think it is important that we have the educators knowledgeable enough to intelligently answer questions. So I think we would be negligent if we didn't do that. I had a very interesting text which I would commend to all members of the Assembly. It is called Facts on AIDS. I read it here yesterday as I was sitting and it is very interesting.

 One of the great problems, you see, that I detect and the reason I think there should be education in some form and if I can divert for a moment, I think the media have been extremely responsible in this regard. If there is a person in Nova Scotia or Canada or in the U.S. today that doesn't know what AIDS is he either doesn't listen to the electronic media, or he doesn't read the newspaper, because most certainly they have done a commendable job. One of the problems and you've all seen it, is that those that are so unfortunate as to contract the disease, in many, many areas, they are outcasts. No one wants to touch them, no one wants to use the washroom after them, no one wants to really live with them.

 I saw last night on television, as I went home to grab a bite to eat, where a young chap was making out his will, and he was specifically saying that he didn't want to be buried in the cemetery with his parents or his family, he didn't want anything to go to them, simply because they didn't want anything to do with him while he had AIDS. There was another lady who had the same situation.

 I think one of the things that we have to do, we have to ensure that people know when you can contract the disease and what you can do in living with members of the family that unfortunately have the disease. Not only members of the family, because many of the general public are very much afraid that they could come in contact with the disease and they don't understand that it's only under certain circumstances that you can get AIDS. So, there's a fear rampant out there and I think we have to do our best to squelch that.

 I think children in our junior high school system should learn what AIDS is, how

 it possibly can be transmitted, and possibly how you can prevent yourself from getting

 AIDS. There are several arguments to this. There is a moralistic argument and all that

 type of thing. I'm not going to get into that. But suffice it to say that we shouldn't en

 courage permissiveness, we should at least talk about the values and the moral values in

 volved in bringing about sexual relationships.

 Post-secondary education, very quickly, and this will be my wind-down. I think our

 government's been extremely fair to the various universities around the Province of Nova Scotia, particularly in the capital expansion fields. We have confirmed our commitment of

 $10 million to Dalhousie University. We just paid our last $3 million to Saint Mary's on

 their sportsp1ex. We continue to give money for the library at St. FX. University and the

 Atlantic School of Theology. We just announced over the last month a $6 million allocation

 for expansion at Acadia University, and in addition at Acadia University, one of the exciting

 programs, (Applause) thank you very much, one of the exciting programs. . .

..

 ... yes, indeed, was the food services program that is being

 implemented at Acadia. That is one of the programs that are in touch with the real world.

 We're better for it to happen in the Annapolis Valley where we have the food processing

 plants. We continue as I say the operating grants to the universities, and I hope to make the

 announcement very soon on the funding to the universities and I'm hoping that all will

 be satisfied and I'm sure they will.

 Finally, I want to touch on museums and the tremendous job that's being done by

 my department in the museum sector. It's good timing. We have something like 68 branch

 museums throughout the Province of Nova Scotia and I've had the opportunity to visit

 many of them both before becoming minister and after that. There are some of them that

 are just absolutely fantastic. They really do a good job and the tourists, I've been there

 when tourists have been visiting those museums, and they're delighted with the protection

 of heritage and the interest that we take in' protecting heritage and our culture in this

 province.

 One of the areas that I always wanted to see expanded if we are to assist the tourist

 industry and I've worked with the Minister of Tourism in this regard, and I'm hoping this

 year if my budget remains intact as it is now to be able to expand that museum period into

 the tourist shoulder season by about two weeks. I've been requested by the Tourist Associ

 ation of Nova Scotia and others to expand that. So I am hoping that we will be able to do

 that in the upcoming October season. Well, that was not too painful, Mr. Speaker, was it?

 I am delighted to have had this opportunity. As I said at the outset, this is the ninth

 opportunity I have had to apprise members of the excitement that is taking place in my

 constituency and as well, hopefully by inference, my excitement of having the opportunity

 bestowed upon me to be Minister of Education. I enjoy the department very, very much and

 I think there is room for improvement and I am energized to ensure that we do the very best job in educating the youth of Nova Scotia that we possibly can do.

 Now, having said all of that and having read and touched from time to time on the

 contents of the Throne Speech, I need not say, Mr. Speaker, that I will be voting for the motion and against the amendment. Thank you very much. (Applause)